

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION FOR

SYSTEM AND METHOD OF A WIRELESS NETWORK
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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SYSTEM AND METHOD OF A WIRELESS NETWORK OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present claimed invention relates generally to the field of wireless communication systems. More particularly, the present claimed invention relates to the remote operation and maintenance of a packet based wireless base stations which interfaces with Call Agents using wireless signaling protocol.

10 BACKGROUND ART

Local area networks such as Ethernet are well known. Most local area networks are wired, so that each station is connected directly or indirectly to all other stations by cabling or wires, thus providing full connectivity between all stations. Such local area networks avoid collisions and achieve efficient use of
15 the communications channel by well known carrier sensing and collision avoidance schemes. Such schemes are typically not suitable for wireless networks. Communication systems that utilize coded communication signals are also well known in the art. One such system is a code division multiple access (CDMA) cellular communication system such as set forth in the
20 Telecommunications Industry Association/Electronic Industries Association International Standard (TIA/EIA IS-95), hereinafter referred to as IS-95.

Figure 1 is an illustration of a conventional prior art CDMA system. In the
25 system shown in Figure 1, base stations 110 and 120 are connected to a base station controller 130 and a mobile switching controller 140 which is in turn

connected to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) 150 using known techniques.

In the system shown in Figure 1, when a communication unit initiates a
5 call sequence to either one of the base stations 110 and 120 within a coverage
area, an end-to-end connection is established between the respective base
stations, the base station controller 130 and the MSC 140 using known CDMA call
setup techniques. The base stations 110 and 120 typically communicate with the
BSC 130 and the MSC 140 via communication links, such as a T1 connection.
10 Base stations 110 and 120 typically have antennas to define the coverage area
within which either base stations primarily accommodate the communication
units.

With the proliferation of wireless devices in the office and school
15 environment, the communication system shown in Figure 1 can be very
expensive if implemented in an office or in-building environment. The system in
Figure 1 also has the inherent problem of wireless voice and data signal quality
degradation if implemented in an in-building environment.

20 To alleviate the problems of the system shown in Figure 1 and with the
advent of enterprise based wireless networks, some prior art CDMA systems
implement the system shown in Figure 2. In the system illustrated in Figure 2, a
wireless base station is connected to existing ethernet network infrastructure to
enable the CDMA system utilize existing internet protocol techniques to allow
25 communication between wireless devices connected to the ethernet network.

The system in Figure 2 utilizes a combination of wireless signaling protocol and media gateway protocol to allow wireless call handling and other multi-media data transmission. A wireless signaling protocol is necessary in order to handle mobile terminals. Communications on the LAN is implemented
5 between requestors of information (clients) and providers of the information (servers) via a communication protocol such as a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP).

Despite the robustness of the system in Figure 2 in an in-building wireless
10 environment, there are some disadvantages which characterized such systems and other prior art CDMA system when it comes to the maintenance and operation of such systems.

First, in these conventional systems such that in Figure 2, the method of
15 operating and maintaining of the wireless network is by connecting an operation and maintenance server(s) to the wireless network using either SS7, X.25 or other LAN connections. In these systems, a operation and maintenance center is equipped with operation and maintenance servers with associated operation and maintenance tools. Access to the servers is limited to operations and
20 maintenance clients system which are physically connected to the network.

Due to the mobility constraints of such systems, a technician is required to be stationed in the O&M center to physically monitor the operation of the network. With the proliferation and advances of the internet and intranets, some
25 O&M clients can be remotely connected to the O&M servers to handle the required network management of these systems. As accessibility to the internet from remote locations continues to become more widely available and

convenient, utilizing the internet to perform such tasks such as remote system operation and maintenance becomes increasingly desirable. Some methods have been developed in the prior art to allow for such remote access management.

However, such methods require access to the O&M server via a Call Agent
5 connected to the network. Processing O&M server calls through the Call Agent can be time consuming, cumbersome and take Call Agent resources away from conventional mobile devices accessing the network.

10 Thus, it is desirable to have a system and a method for handling remote access requests to a CDMA wireless enterprise system for system operation and maintenance management. There is a further desire to have a system for transmitting CDMA calls including voice and data over a communication pathway with a higher bandwidth such as the internet. It is further desirable to
15 have a CDMA system that handles the transmission of calls, especially data calls, without the inherent difficulties of using a variety of transmission protocols for the same call. A need further exists for improved and less costly system which improves efficiency and the transmission rate and time of calls between a mobile unit and a base station and between base stations and a base station controller
20 and between adjacent base stations.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a system and a method for providing an enterprise in-building or campus-wide IP based code division multiple access (CDMA) wireless system. The present invention is capable of handling both voice and data transmission over an internet protocol local access network within the CDMA system without the inherent delays and signal quality degradation encountered by conventional CDMA systems. The present further provides a system and method of providing a remote wireless operation and system maintenance of a wireless enterprise system by utilizing existing internet protocol and communication language.

Embodiments of the invention include a system for a wireless base station which couples to existing local area networks (LAN) within an enterprise to provide remote access to a mobile wireless client which may be used to perform routine system operation and maintenance management. The base further includes call processing determination logic which handles the decision of directing mobile calls received by the base station to either a call agent attached to the LAN or a operation and maintenance server which is also attached to the LAN.

In one embodiment of the present invention the base station and operation and maintenance server negotiate to set a predefined number to allow a mobile operation and maintenance client to call into the enterprise system. The mobile operation and maintenance call number is also dynamically negotiated and set by the base station and the operation and maintenance server in order to allow multiple operation and maintenance clients to call into the enterprise system.

In order to handle mobile operation and maintenance clients, the operation and maintenance server includes call processing logic which enables the server to perform call agent like functions. This allows the mobile operation and maintenance client to call into the enterprise system and allow a technician to perform typical operations and maintenance functions without having to be physically tied to the operation and maintenance server. The ability to perform call agent like functions by the operation and maintenance server is not available in the prior art.

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The present invention further provides an implementation advantage over the prior art by allowing inter network communication between the wireless office communication system of the present invention and other mobile networks on the public land mobile network. The inter-networking communication of the present invention is implemented over an IP LAN using the ethernet transport protocol of UDP/IP or TCP/IP transport protocol via an ethernet interface to the ethernet back-bone of the system. The use of the ethernet interface is less costly than the prior art and further allows easy and flexible connectivity to existing in-office, building or campus networks.

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These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will no doubt become obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art after having read the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments which are illustrated in the various drawing figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and form a part of this specification, illustrates embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention:

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Prior Art Figure 1 is a block diagram of a conventional code division multiplex access (CDMA) system;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of an implementation of a prior art enterprise
10 CDMA system;

Figure 3 is a block diagram of a remote wireless CDMA operation and maintenance system of the present invention;

15 Figure 4 is a block diagram of an embodiment of a wireless base station and a operation and maintenance server of the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a block diagram of an embodiment of the call message flow from a wireless operation and maintenance client to a operation and
20 maintenance server of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

While the invention will be described in conjunction with the preferred
5 embodiments, it will be understood that they are not intended to limit the invention to these embodiments.

On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover alternatives,
modifications and equivalents, which may be included within the spirit and
10 scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. Furthermore, in the following detailed description of the present invention, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. In other
15 instances, well known methods, procedures, components, and circuits have not been described in detail as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the present invention.

The invention is directed to a system, an architecture, subsystem and
20 method to manage a wireless CDMA data communication in a way superior to the prior art. In accordance with an aspect of the invention, a base station allows CDMA call coverage within a building without requiring a dedicated and a lengthy end-to-end transmission.

25 In the following detailed description of the present invention, a system and method for a wireless internet protocol based communication system is described. Numerous specific details are not set forth in order to provide a

thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be recognized by one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details or with equivalents thereof.

5 Generally, an aspect of the invention encompasses providing an integrated wireless internet protocol based in-building or campus-wide CDMA communication system which provides a wide range of voice, data, video and other services in conjunction with a private branch exchange interfaced to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and the Public Land Mobile
10 Network (PLMN). The invention can be more fully described with reference to Figures 3 through 5.

Figure 3 is a functional illustration of the wireless system of the present invention. Wireless System 300 (WS) comprises, one or more mobile or wireless
15 communication units 303, a plurality of enterprise wireless base stations (WIBS) 310 - 318, a Call Agent 320 coupled to an ethernet backbone of the LAN 301, a public switch telephone network gateway 330 (PSTN) which further couples to the Public Switch Telephone Network 324, an internet/intranet gateway 340 which couples to the internet 342 and an enterprise intranet 343 and an
20 operations and maintenance server 350.

In the system illustrated in Figure 3, a remote access wireless operation and maintenance client couples to WS 300 via any of the wireless base stations to provide a operation and maintenance management technician access to the
25 operation and maintenance server 350. The maintenance technician may access the WS 300 by using well known internet browsers to login into the enterprise system.

In order to enable a wireless operation and maintenance management functions, wireless client software which is running on a mobile terminal 305 establishes a data link (either an Asynchronous or Packet date link) to the
5 operations and maintenance server 350 via one of base stations 310 – 318. In the present invention mobile terminal unit 305 may be a personal digital assistant (PDA) with wireless connectivity, a notebook computer connected to a mobile phone, a web-enable mobile phone or any wireless computer system.

10 To establish the data link to the operations and maintenance server 350, mobile unit 305 transmits an access request to either of the WIBS 310- 318. The access request is in the form of a unique operations identification number which is predetermined and pre-negotiated between the operations and maintenance server 350 and the base station. The operation identification number is a
15 numerical digit of a predetermined length which may be dynamically be updated between the base stations and the operations and maintenance server as part of the operation and maintenance server's managed information base.

Any one of base stations 310 – 318 which receives an O&M server call
20 request from mobile unit 305 initiates a data call setup procedure with the operations and maintenance server 350 rather than with the Call Agent 320. After a data call has been established between the mobile unit 305 and server 350, a point to point protocol session is established between terminal 305 and server 350. The Point-to-Point Protocol session enables terminal 305 to establish a data
25 link connection to the O&M server to allow communication (e.g. the transfer of operational commands and instructions) between the wireless O&M client and

the server 350. The Point-to-Point Protocol provides data-link connection and typically has the IP protocol running on top of it.

Once the Point-to-Point Protocol session is established, terminal 305 is able
5 to initiate and establish a HTTP session to server 350 to access to the maintenance and operation tools in server 350 MIB and function as if the operations and maintenance client running on terminal 305 is directly connected to LAN 301. Thus, all operations typically performed by client 352 is now performed by client 304.

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Referring now to Figure 4, a block diagram of an embodiment of the WIBS 310 and O&M server 350. As shown in Figure 4, WIBS 310 includes call processing logic unit 410, O&M call processing logic 420 and O&M access control and logic unit 430. Call processing logic 410 is coupled to receive O&M wireless
15 call requests to Call Agent 320 (Figure 3) via WIBS 310 for typical CDMA wireless call functions.

Call processing logic 410 performs call processing functions which typically would have been performed by Call Agent 320. By having call
20 processing logic 410 in the O&M server, the O&M server prevents WIBS 310 from mistakenly routing non-operation and maintenance calls to Call Agent 320.

O&M call processing logic 420 is coupled to receive O&M call from O&M wireless clients to access the O&M server 350. In the preferred embodiment
25 O&M call processing logic is able to determine whether to access the O&M server 350 by using a unique call identification number which is provided by Call access control unit 430. Call access control unit 430 is coupled to negotiate

with the O&M server 350 unique call identification numbers which would allow remote O&M wireless clients to directly access the O&M server 350. In the preferred embodiment, the call identification number is a alphanumeric number (e.g., #3333) which is pre-determined between the O&M server and the base station and is stored in the O&M server's managed information base.

In the present invention, call access control logic 430 is capable of dynamically negotiating with the O&M server 350 to set an access number which only allows remote access to the O&M server 350 by remote wireless O&M client systems. Control logic 430 is also capable of negotiating a pre-determined access code which is stored in WIBS 310 to allow WIBS 310 determine whether an incoming call request is to the O&M server 350 or to Call Agent 320.

Still referring to Figure 4, O&M server 350 includes access control logic unit 440, call processing logic unit 450 and O&M function logic unit 460. Access control logic unit 440 performs similar function as access control logic unit 430. Control logic unit 450 negotiates with WIBS 310 to set dynamically or statically the access code for wireless O&M clients to access the O&M server 350.

Call processing logic 450 is coupled to provide call processing functions to the O&M server 350. Having a call processing logic in the O&M server is a novel way of having the O&M server provide call agent like functions which the prior art does not provide. Processing logic unit 450 also provides the O&M server 350 call processing capabilities to ensure that O&M client calls do not compete with other conventional mobile calls to the enterprise system.

Calls processed by call processing logic 450 are handed-off to O&M function logic 440 which grants remote access processing of O&M functions and tools to the O&M remote client. O&M function logic 440 also provides other typical O&M functions for O&M clients physically connected to the enterprise system.

Referring now to Figure 5 is a sequence flow diagram of the wireless operation and maintenance operation of the present invention. The operation of present invention is initiated by a mobile operation and maintenance client issuing a connect request for a data call for wireless operation and maintenance number via request signal 510 to WIBS 310.

In the preferred embodiment, the request number may be a predetermined alphanumeric number (e.g., #3333). The mobile terminal originates a data call service option and calls the requested number by transmitting the data call request via signal 520 to the WIBS 310. When WIBS 310 detects the wireless operation and maintenance request signal, it sends a connection management service request to the operation and maintenance server via request signal 530.

The operation and maintenance server 350 responds to the WIBS 310 request by establishing a data connection to the mobile terminal on a dedicated traffic channel and transmitting an acknowledgment signal via signal 540 to the WIBS 310. In response to the traffic channel signal from the operation and maintenance server, the WIBS establishes a data connection to the mobile terminal of the traffic channel to enable the mobile terminal to communicate to the operation and maintenance server.

When the mobile terminal receives signal 565, mobile terminal establishes a Point-to-Point Protocol connection with the operation and maintenance server to begin communications with the maintenance and operation tools. To

- 5 communicate with the operation and maintenance server, the operation and maintenance running on the mobile terminal establishes a web connection with server via signal 570 and send operation and maintenance commands using HTML or other similar internet communication language.

- 10 The foregoing descriptions of specific embodiments of the present invention have been presented for purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed, and obviously many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. The embodiments were chosen and described in order to
- 15 best explain the principles of the invention and its practical application, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention and various embodiments with various modifications are suited to the particular use contemplated. It is intended that the scope of the invention be defined by the Claims appended hereto and their equivalents.